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International drug control

International cooperation against the world drug problem

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/178 of 16 December 2005, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of that resolution with a focus on transit countries. The report provides an overview of the implementation of mandates relating to international drug control, in particular the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, held from 8 to 10 June 1998.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/178 of 16 December 2005, entitled "International cooperation against the world drug problem", the General Assembly reaffirmed its commitment to the outcome of its twentieth special session, devoted to countering the world drug problem together, held in New York from 8 to 10 June 1998, and reaffirmed the importance of the commitments of Member States in meeting the objectives targeted for 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at the twentieth special session.[1] In resolution 60/178, the Assembly also reaffirmed the Joint Ministerial Statement and further measures to implement the action plans emanating from the twentieth special session of the Assembly (A/58/124, sect. II.A), adopted during the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and the importance of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction,[2] and called upon all relevant actors to continue their close cooperation with Governments in promoting and implementing the outcomes of the twentieth special session and of the ministerial segment of the forty-sixth session of the Commission.

2. In the area of demand reduction in resolution 60/178, the Assembly urged all Member States to implement the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and to strengthen their national efforts to counter the abuse of illicit drugs in their population. In section II of the resolution, the Assembly called upon States to enhance support for alternative development and eradication programmes undertaken by countries affected by the illicit cultivation of cannabis, especially in Africa, opium poppy and coca bush, in particular national programmes that seek to reduce social marginalization and promote sustainable economic development; to encourage international cooperation, including preventive alternative development, to prevent illicit crop cultivation from emerging in or being relocated to other areas; to provide greater access to their markets for products of alternative development programmes; to establish or reinforce national mechanisms to monitor illicit crops; and to empower local communities and authorities in order to increase their ownership of alternative development projects.

3. The General Assembly encouraged the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, as the global coordinating body in international drug control and as the governing body of the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the International Narcotics Control Board to continue their work on the control of precursors and other chemicals used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; and requested the Office to continue to strengthen dialogue with Member States and to ensure continued improvement in management.

Trends in the world drug markets

4. The *World Drug Report 2006*[3] of UNODC indicated that there was evidence of long-term containment of the world drug problem as well as encouraging signs for the medium term. It noted that global opium production had fallen by 5 per cent in 2005, while cocaine production remained broadly stable. Seizures of both drugs, especially cocaine, reached record levels. The consumption of cannabis, the most

widely used illicit drug, continued to increase, while the market for amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) stabilized. It was noted that Africa has a growing importance for trans-shipments of cocaine and heroin to Europe. Overall, the global drug market trends appeared to be moving in the right direction, but Governments need to intensify their efforts to reduce both supply and demand.

5. In 2005, the estimated global area under illicit opium cultivation decreased by 22 per cent as a result of reduced cultivation in the three main source countries of illicit opium: Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic. There were some notable successes. The Lao People's Democratic Republic, which until the mid-1990s was the world's third-largest illicit opium producer, cut opium production by 72 per cent in 2005 and was on the verge of becoming opium-free. In Afghanistan, the world's largest opium producer, from 2004 to 2005 the area under opium poppy cultivation fell 21 per cent, to 104,000 hectares, the first such decline since 2001. However, the drug situation remains vulnerable in that country due to poverty, the lack of security and challenges in controlling the territory. As a result, encouraging trends could be reversed despite the large-scale eradication of opium crops in early 2006.

6. The extent of drug abuse is an important indicator of the magnitude of the global drug problem. Based on data provided by Governments, the total number of illicit drug users worldwide is estimated to be approximately 200 million people, roughly 5 per cent of the global population age 15-64. There are approximately 25 million people worldwide considered to be drug addicts or problem drug users, which is equivalent to 0.6 per cent of the population age 15-64. That global estimate has not varied much in recent years because increases in some countries have been offset by declines in others.

7. Some encouraging trends in the coca and cocaine markets were noted. Coca cultivation and cocaine production were broadly stable, while seizures of cocaine rose to record levels. Global cocaine use declined slightly, although demand for cocaine has risen in Western Europe. After increases in the 1990s, the market for ATS has stabilized, reflecting improved law enforcement and better precursor control. Some 25 million people used amphetamines at least once in 2004, while some 10 million people used Ecstasy. Total ATS production was estimated at 480 tons in 2004, down from its peak in 2000. Cannabis, the world's most abused illicit drug, deserves special attention. It was used at least once by an estimated 162 million people in 2004, equivalent to about 4 per cent of the global population age 15-64, and consumption continues to increase. Cannabis is now considerably more potent that it was a few decades ago, and evidence is mounting that its use can cause serious mental illness. Addressing the cannabis pandemic requires a consistent commitment across the political spectrum and from society at large. In spite of some encouraging signs, three key weaknesses in the global drug control situation remain: heroin supply in Afghanistan, cocaine demand in Europe and cannabis supply and demand everywhere.

II. International cooperation to counter the world drug problem and follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

A. 2005 World Summit Outcome

8. At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State and Government paid particular attention to issues addressed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in particular the negative effects on development, peace and security and human rights posed by transnational crime, including trafficking in human beings, the world drug problem and the illicit trade in small arms. In the 2005 World Summit Outcome (resolution 60/1), Member States resolved to strengthen the capacity of UNODC, within its existing mandates, to provide assistance to Member States upon request.

B. Follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

9. The Political Declaration adopted by General Assembly at its twentieth special session called upon all States to report biennially to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on their efforts to meet the goals and targets for 2003 and 2008 contained in the Declaration and requested the Commission to analyse those reports in order to enhance cooperative efforts to combat the world drug problem. At its fiftieth session, in 2007, the Commission will consider the fourth biennial report, 2004-2006, of the Executive Director of UNODC on the world drug problem, which will be the penultimate biennial evaluation of implementation by Member States of the goals and targets of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. The 10-year evaluation is scheduled for 2008. In 2000, the Commission agreed that one ministerial-level segment should be convened in 2003, with a second such segment at the conclusion of the period.

10. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission adopted two resolutions concerning the follow-up to the twentieth special session. In its resolution 49/1, entitled "Collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session" (see E/2006/28, para. 3), the Commission recognized that data and expertise acquired by specialized national and regional bodies in monitoring the drug situation in their own geographical contexts can contribute to assessing the implementation of the goals set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. It also took note of the conclusions of the expert workshop on measuring progress in demand reduction held in Vienna from 31 October to 2 November 2005. That meeting had recognized that by 2008, the reporting of information needed to be enhanced and that the analytical process to make full use of the available global knowledge base should be refined. In that context, in its resolution 49/1, the Commission called upon UNODC to engage with national and regional experts from all geographical regions, as well as experts from relevant international organizations, on the collection and use of complementary drug-related data and expertise to support the global assessment by Member States of the implementation of the declarations and measures adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. The Commission requested the Executive Director of UNODC to

submit a report on the results of those efforts and provide Member States with additional input to make an objective, scientific, balanced and transparent global assessment of that implementation. The Commission further recommended that, following the global assessment, there should be a period of global reflection by Member States, based on the fundamental principles of the international drug control treaties and giving due regard to measures that have led to positive outcomes and aspects that require greater effort.

11. In its resolution 49/2, entitled "Recognizing the contribution of civil society in global efforts to address the drug problem in the context of reporting on the goals and targets for 2008 set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session", the Commission acknowledged the contribution made by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in curbing drug abuse. It encouraged non-governmental organizations to reflect on their own achievements in addressing the drug problem and to report on their progress to their respective national government bodies, in the context of reporting on the goals and targets for 2008 set by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

12. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission, the view was expressed that the review to be undertaken in 2008 of the implementation of the recommendations of the twentieth special session should go beyond an assessment of the progress made by Governments in reaching those goals and targets and should also seek to develop forward-looking recommendations, including in areas not covered by the resolutions of the twentieth special session.

C. Implementation and evaluation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly

13. Member States have reported considerable progress towards meeting some areas of the goals set for 2008. Procedural, technical and financial problems still hamper the execution of requests for judicial cooperation. Some countries lack the capacity necessary to successfully combat money-laundering. The countries most affected by illicit crop cultivation need further capacity-building, the establishment of better monitoring and impact evaluation systems and long-term socio-economic development in order to sustain illicit crop eradication and alternative development efforts and prevent the re-emergence of illicit crops. Further efforts are required to strengthen precursor control and to combat the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in amphetamine-type stimulants. In that regard, law enforcement action and cooperation needs to be strengthened, the operational capabilities of forensic laboratories needs to be improved, and partnerships with the chemical and pharmaceutical industries need to be further enhanced. Such action should be combined with efforts to prevent the abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants, especially experimentation with such stimulants among youth, and to treat abusers of such stimulants. In general, more must be done to develop systems for the assessment of the problem of illicit drug abuse and to provide comprehensive drug abuse prevention programmes and services for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

14. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission, in the context of current trends in drug abuse, several representatives stressed that synthetic drugs such as

amphetamine-type stimulants constituted an increasing threat and that more efforts should be focused on both the supply of, and the demand for, such drugs, including preventive measures specifically targeting young people. Another drug trend was the rise in the abuse of cannabis, which was erroneously perceived by young people as being less harmful than other drugs. Concern was also expressed at the emerging problem of the use of online pharmacies for smuggling drugs across national boundaries. International cooperation and the harmonization of national laws were necessary, because no country could tackle that new threat alone.

15. While Member States had adopted the biennial reports questionnaire as the primary instrument for the evaluation of progress, the overall response rate was relatively low: only 31 per cent of Member States had responded in all three reporting cycles. Given that low response rate, it is more important than ever that Member States be diligent in providing full responses through the biennial reports questionnaire.

D. Adherence to the international conventions on drugs and crime

16. In its resolution 60/178, the General Assembly urged all States to ratify or accede to, and States parties to implement, all provisions of the drug control treaties. The drug control conventions enjoy almost universal adherence, although countries continue to strive for the full implementation of all provisions. The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol[4] has 180 States parties, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[5] has 179 States parties, and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988[6] has 180 States parties.

17. In resolution 60/178, the Assembly invited all States, as a matter of priority, to sign, ratify or accede to, and States parties to fully implement, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto[7] and the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[8] in order to counter comprehensively transnational criminal activities related to illicit drug trafficking. As at 24 July 2006, there were 147 signatories and 122 States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 117 signatories and 101 States parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; 112 signatories and 92 States parties to the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and 52 signatories and 53 States parties to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition.

18. An example of an integrated approach to implementing the international conventions on drugs and crime was the Round Table for Africa held in Abuja on 5 and 6 September 2005. The Round Table, which was hosted by the Government of Nigeria and organized by UNODC, endorsed the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, aimed at strengthening the rule of law and criminal justice systems in Africa. African Member States represented at the Round Table agreed that the Programme of Action provided the strategic direction and the operational orientation needed to guide government action starting in January 2006. The Round Table emphasized the importance of mainstreaming the issues of rule of law, crime and drugs in the development agenda of all countries and that the provision of resources, both from

African Governments and from development and donor partners, was instrumental to ensuring the Programme's success. In that regard, on the recommendation of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Economic and Social Council adopted on 27 July 2006 a resolution entitled "Implementation of the Programme of Action, 2006-2010, on strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in Africa".

E. International cooperation among judicial and law enforcement authorities

19. Up to 90 per cent of the heroin found in Europe is produced in Afghanistan. As many as half a million people are believed to be involved in the trade in Afghan opiates, which is estimated to generate more than $40 billion per year, with devastating consequences for Afghanistan and transit States. At the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the representatives of several countries neighbouring Afghanistan emphasized that sustained international assistance was essential to efforts to deal with the drug problem in Afghanistan. It was noted that countries neighbouring Afghanistan were severely affected by illicit drug consignments from Afghanistan passing through their territory. The growing importance of the so-called northern route, used to smuggle opiates of Afghan origin though Central Asia into Europe, was emphasized. It was also stressed that assistance should be directed towards building capacity to improve border control and towards training. In that connection, the Commission, in paragraph 1 of its report (E/2006/28), recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council a draft resolution entitled "Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Drugs and Related Matters: a Vision for the Twenty-first Century". The Baku Accord, contained in the annex of that draft resolution, had been adopted by the States members of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East at the fortieth session of the Subcommission, held in Baku from 12 to 16 September 2005.

20. The Paris Pact process is one of the most important mechanisms of the international community for tackling the challenge of Afghan heroin. At the Ministerial Conference on Drug Routes from Central Asia to Europe, held in Paris in May 2003, representatives agreed on concerted measures to limit the trafficking of Afghan opiates through Western and Central Asian and European countries. Following that conference, UNODC launched the Paris Pact initiative, leading to a series of operational expert round tables and policy-level meetings to enhance border control and anti-trafficking measures along the three major trafficking routes from Afghanistan to Europe: the southern route via Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and farther by sea and air; the western route via the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and the Balkans; and the northern route via Central Asia and the Russian Federation. In that regard, focus was also placed on the vulnerable routes through the Arab Gulf States. In the framework of the Paris Pact initiative, UNODC developed the Automated Donor Assistance Mechanism (https://www.paris-pact.net), an Internet-based coordination mechanism for technical assistance projects in the area of counter-narcotics enforcement. The mechanism will be officially launched in Vienna in September 2006. The Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan was held in Moscow on

26-28 June 2006 and hosted by the Russian Federation as part of its Group of Eight presidency, in cooperation with UNODC. Ministers and heads of delegations from 55 countries affected by the traffic and abuse of opium and heroin produced in Afghanistan, as well as international organizations, attended. The Conference adopted recommendations and supported the Moscow Declaration (see A/61/208, annex) of the Group of Eight presidency. The Declaration reaffirmed the continuing validity of the main provisions of the first meeting in Paris and highlighted the importance of the international communities support for the Government of Afghanistan in implementing its National Drug Control Strategy. It was recommended that countries affected by the drug routes from Afghanistan should adopt an approach that struck a balance between prosecution of traffickers and prevention and treatment of drug addiction. Further, cooperation among law enforcement agencies concerned had to be improved with a view to identifying transnational criminal groups engaged in smuggling drugs and precursors both within and outside Afghanistan. With regard to the illicit traffic in precursor chemicals used for the production of heroin, both in the drug transit countries and in Afghanistan, it was decided that a systematic exchange of information on the diversion of precursors into illicit channels should be established. In the area of demand reduction, it was recommended that States should implement comprehensive prevention, treatment and rehabilitation measures, including the prevention of drug use and HIV. The Declaration noted that the Central Asia Regional Information and Coordination Centre had an important role to play in establishing standards in the region to improve the exchange of intelligence and cooperation among the law enforcement agencies of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, in the context of combating drug trafficking originating in Afghanistan.

F. Countering money-laundering

21. In its resolution 60/178, the General Assembly called upon States to consider including in their national drug control plans provisions for the establishment of national networks to enhance their capabilities to prevent, monitor, control and suppress serious offences connected with money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, to counter in general all acts of transnational organized crime and to supplement existing regional and international networks dealing with money-laundering. A substantial majority of Member States have agreed to meet the current norms and standards on anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism and, in most cases, to undergo external compliance assessments, to be conducted by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF)-style regional bodies, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Through its Global Programme against Money-Laundering, UNODC continues to assist States in developing mechanisms for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. To that end, all States should ratify and implement the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism[9] and immediately implement the United Nations resolutions against terrorist financing. In that regard, States need to criminalize the financing of terrorism, freeze and confiscate terrorist assets, report suspicious transactions relating to terrorism, provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition, regulate alternative remittance systems, require financial institutions to include accurate and meaningful originator information in

wire transfers, regulate non-profit organizations and implement measures to detect the physical cross-border transfer of currency and bearer negotiable instruments. The Global Programme against Money-Laundering provides assistance to Member States to comply with international standards in areas such as drafting legislation, training investigators, prosecutors and operators in the financial sector and establishing and strengthening financial intelligence units. In addition, the Global Programme against Money-Laundering continues to build on already strong relationships with the FATF-style regional bodies as a platform for appropriate technical assistance delivery.

G. Global trends in illicit manufacture, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors

22. The UNODC *World Drug Report 2006* estimates that worldwide, 25 million people, roughly 0.5 per cent of the population age 15-64, abused amphetamine, methamphetamine or related substances, while some 9.7 million, roughly 0.2 per cent of the world population age 15-64, abused Ecstasy during the 2004-2005 period. UNODC has estimated that total global ATS production in 2004 was 480 tons, led by amphetamine and, in second place, Ecstasy.[10] The increasing number of countries that have dismantled clandestine ATS laboratories indicates that ATS production is spreading geographically but remains concentrated in North America, East and South-East Asia and Europe. Amphetamine production is predominant in Europe, and methamphetamine production is predominant in North America and East and South-East Asia. Ecstasy production is predominantly located in Europe and North America.

23. Amphetamine seizures steadily increased from 3.1 tons in 2000 to 6 tons in 2004. More than 90 per cent of seizures in the 2000-2004 period took place in Europe, notably Western and Central Europe.[11] Global interdiction of Ecstasy-type substances also steadily increased from 4.3 metric tons in 2003 to 8 tons in 2004. Seizures of Ecstasy rose in all subregions, but the greatest number of interdictions continued to be in Western and Central Europe, followed by North America and Oceania. An emerging trend is the increasing number of seizures that take place in Southern Africa. Seizures of ATS precursor chemicals reached record levels in 2004, reflecting the international cooperation under Project Prism initiated and coordinated by the International Narcotics Control Board and carried out by 126 national authorities, with the support of the International Narcotics Control Board, Interpol, the World Customs Organization, UNODC and the European Community. Global seizures of the main methamphetamine precursors, pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, totalled 176 tons and 15 tons respectively in 2004, and seizures of the two precursors have increased steadily in recent years.

24. Member States have adopted measures to raise awareness by launching national prevention and information campaigns and strategies to reduce the illicit demand for drugs, including ATS.[12] Some States have provided specialized treatment, aftercare services and interventions to reduce the adverse consequences of the abuse of ATS. Other States have formulated ATS action plans, including the identification of good practices and approaches for treatment, the training of physicians and health workers, research, awareness-raising at entertainment sites and discotheques and the introduction of drug abuse prevention campaigns in

prisons and in school curricula. Some States have introduced legislation that prohibits the promotion of illicit drugs on the Internet, establishing penalties for the misuse of the Internet. Many States have used information technology to disseminate information on the adverse health, social and economic effects of ATS in order to stop its use.

25. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission considered the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988.[1] It was noted that synthetic drugs, in particular ATS, posed a serious threat to the international community. The illicit manufacture of those substances had recently spread, and all regions currently experienced similar problems. The International Narcotics Control Board had encouraged Governments to establish a global system of estimates for certain key precursors and pharmaceutical preparations containing those substances, to be used as an important tool in preventing diversions. The Board had introduced a new electronic system of pre-export notifications, which was made available to all Governments free of charge, as an effective means of exchanging information on individual shipments in licit international trade. The timely exchange of such information had proved to be essential in identifying and preventing diversions. The Board had initiated an assessment of Operation Purple and Operation Topaz, resulting in the merger of the two operations into a single activity, Project Cohesion, which provided for the exchange of real-time information, backtracking investigations and regular evaluation of activities.

26. In its resolution 49/3, entitled "Strengthening systems for the control of precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs", contained in paragraph 3 of its report (E/2006/28), the Commission on Narcotic Drugs called for Member States to continue their involvement in Project Prism and strengthen their law enforcement and legislative frameworks in order to control the transport and use of precursor chemicals for licit purposes.

H. Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

27. The subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs reviewed trends in drug trafficking and regional and subregional cooperation and addressed priority drug law enforcement issues in their respective regions. Four meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were held in 2005: the fortieth session of the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East, held in Baku from 12 to 16 September; the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa, held in Ouagadougou from 29 March to 1 April; the Fifteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santa Marta, Colombia, from 17 to 21 October; and the Twenty-ninth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific, held in Hanoi from 7 to 11 November. The recommendations made by the subsidiary bodies addressed issues such as countering opiate and cannabis trafficking, identifying drug traffickers through effective document control, law enforcement cooperation against the illicit manufacture and distribution of stimulants, training of law enforcement officials, the mobilization of community support for law enforcement anti-drug

strategies, effective controlled delivery operations and the strengthening of information exchange and operational cooperation at the inter-agency, cross-border and regional levels. In addition, the Subcommission adopted the Baku Accord (see paragraph 19 of the present report).

III. Demand reduction

28. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission considered the problems of collecting information on drug abuse and recognized the importance of developing drug information systems. It was noted with satisfaction that some regions had experienced positive results in the reduction of demand for certain drugs. But concern was expressed at the increase in the abuse of other drugs in other regions. It was stressed that it was important to consider the abuse of psychoactive substances that were not currently under international control. The importance of increasing public awareness of drug-related health risks and the risks posed by the abuse of psychoactive substances and its related consequences were also emphasized. Young people were identified as being among the most important groups to be targeted by prevention activities. In relation to treatment and rehabilitation, the value of early detection and intervention activities was stressed, as was the importance of strengthening national and international cooperation among services providing assistance to drug users and their families. The importance of improved information and data collection for drug assessment and the evaluation of demand reduction initiatives was also recognized.

29. In the context of implementing a comprehensive strategy to reduce demand for drugs, and in the light of the alarming situation with regard to HIV/AIDS, the importance of reducing the negative health and social consequences of drug abuse, such as HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases, was underlined. Examples were given of programmes aimed at providing drug abusers with information on the risks associated with drug abuse and on therapy, treatment, rehabilitation and other related services. The leadership role of UNODC on the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) was underlined in the context of comprehensive drug abuse prevention strategies. The importance of involving civil society, local communities and non-governmental organizations in the full range of drug demand reduction policy development, programme planning and implementation was stressed.

30. Concern was expressed at the situation in Afghanistan and the impact of illicit drug trafficking on transit and neighbouring countries affected by the increase in drug supply and problems related to drug abuse, such as HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases. Injecting heroin abuse was increasing, and a change in the pattern of drug abuse had been detected. The supply and demand aspects of the drug problem in those countries deserved both increased attention and coordinated action from the international community. It was stressed that all countries, in particular those countries with a high level of abuse of illicit drugs, needed to reinforce their action to reduce demand.

Drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

31. In the area of drug abuse prevention, UNODC continued the dissemination of good practices through its Global Youth Network against Drug Abuse, which comprises more than 500 organizations from more than 50 countries working on the prevention of substance abuse among young people. Among the most important achievements were the creation of five regional networks to adapt good practices at the global level to situations at the regional level and disseminate those practices; the organization of three regional training workshops on substance abuse prevention for non-governmental organizations and media representatives from four Central Asian countries; the regular updating of an e-mail "listserv" and the Network's website (http://www.unodc.org/youthnet); and the mainstreaming of drug abuse prevention in ongoing HIV prevention programmes at the inter-agency level.

32. UNODC is implementing a locally sustained, evidence-based treatment and rehabilitation plan focusing on four areas: (a) establishing and coordinating an international network of resource centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers; (b) synthesizing and disseminating, through the UNODC Drug Abuse Treatment Toolkit series (http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treatment_toolkit.html), current knowledge on what works in the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers; (c) building the capacity of treatment professionals at resource centres in order to increase their impact in their respective subregions; and (d) helping expand that knowledge by demonstrating, diversifying and enhancing treatment projects. An international network of 20 resource centres covering priority subregions have been selected. The plan builds on UNODC treatment and rehabilitation initiatives and networks in Africa, Central America, Central and South-East Asia and the Russian Federation and its neighbouring countries.

33. In the area of data collection and drug abuse epidemiology, UNODC has continued to provide technical assistance to Member States through the Global Assessment Programme on Drug Abuse. The global database on patterns and trends in drug abuse has been improved to allow more accurate analysis of drug abuse trends. The activities and technical assistance provided to Member States through the Global Assessment Programme have contributed to the collection, analysis and reporting of drug abuse data at the national and regional levels.

34. UNODC is the convening agency of the inter-agency working group on HIV/AIDS prevention and care among injecting drug users and in prison settings, which meets twice a year. UNODC also supports the United Nations Reference Group on HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Among Injecting Drug Users in Developing and Transitional Countries. Within the thematic area of HIV/AIDS related to drug abuse, prison settings and trafficking in human beings, UNODC is undertaking projects in cooperation and coordination with the World Health Organization and UNAIDS in Africa and the Middle East and is the chair of the United Nations Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation.

IV. International cooperation in illicit crop eradication and alternative development

35. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission held a thematic debate on the topic of alternative development as an important drug control strategy and establishing alternative development as a cross-cutting issue. The thematic debate focused on the various conceptual and programmatic aspects of alternative development. The problems and challenges facing alternative development in different drug crop cultivation areas and the way to evaluate the impact of alternative development programmes were also addressed. All speakers expressed the view that alternative development was a fundamental component of the counter-narcotics strategy to combat the world drug problem. Most agreed that alternative development should follow an integrated approach that combined a mixture of comprehensive activities including demand reduction, health and education and sustainable development efforts with complementary eradication and law enforcement activities. Concern was expressed at the decreased funding available to undertake alternative development activities on a global scale and at the impact that situation could have on existing programmes and on broadening the coverage of alternative development programmes. The majority of speakers referred to the need to evaluate the impact of alternative development activities using social, economic and human development indicators rather than by reference to statistics on illicit crop reduction alone. The importance of strengthening and supporting the UNODC alternative development programme was stressed.

36. The cultivation of illicit crops is decreasing in key areas such as Afghanistan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, as well as in the Andean subregion. That decline in cultivation is welcome, but the rapid progress in illicit crop reduction witnessed in the past decade could be undone if the problem of poverty among farmers is not addressed. UNODC illicit crop monitoring surveys provide Governments and the donor community with essential data for the planning and design of alternative livelihoods and drug law enforcement assistance programmes. In mid-December 2005, UNODC hosted an expert group meeting to review the thematic evaluation of alternative development and identify possible options for future programme activities.

37. The UNODC in its survey of coca crops in the Andean subregion,[14] noted an overall stabilization of the downward trend in coca bush cultivation in the subregion since 2000, with some decrease in Colombia and slight increases in both Bolivia and Peru. The situation continues to require vigilance and further analysis of yields and other parameters. UNODC is working to increase the participation of multinational corporations in product development and the marketing of products produced by alternative development projects.

V. Action by the United Nations system

A. Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

38. UNODC is working to make the world safer from drugs, crime and terrorism and to promote a global alliance against criminality.[15] The Office supports the

international community in meeting those threats by facilitating policymaking on drugs, crime and terrorism issues and by assisting States in ratifying and implementing the related conventions. By building knowledge and awareness on the world's drug and crime problems, UNODC can suggest strategic directions and mobilize resources to address those problems. The Office aims to deliver knowledge-based expertise to strengthen Member States' capacity to prevent and reduce drugs and crime. Technical assistance is of crucial importance in reaching those goals.

39. In the United Nations Millennium Declaration (General Assembly resolution 55/2), Member States resolved to intensify efforts to fight transnational crime in all its dimensions, to redouble the efforts to implement the commitment to counter the world drug problem and to take concerted action against international terrorism. The three pillars of the UNODC work programme are research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and crime issues and expand the evidence base for policy and operational decisions; normative work to assist States in the ratification and implementation of the international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs, crime and terrorism and the provision of secretariat and substantive services to the treaty-based and governing bodies; and field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to counteract illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

40. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 48/14,[16] UNODC is developing an overarching strategy in full consultation with Member States. A progress report was provided to the Commission at its forty-ninth session, including results-based management and budgeting, project cycle management and evaluation. Those ongoing efforts should be seen in the context of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the report of the Secretary-General of 7 March 2006 on Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide (A/60/692 and Corr. 1).

41. UNODC maintains close cooperation with a variety of partners: the group of 21 major donors, the group of emerging and national donors, United Nations agencies, international financial institutions and private and corporate foundations. For the biennium 2004-2005, the group of major donors provided about 80 per cent of all voluntary contributions, while emerging and national donors contributed about 16 per cent. During 2005, a number of new partnerships were developed or strengthened, including with the private sector, that may lead to a broadening of the UNODC resource base. Aside from regular meetings with the group of major donors, UNODC organized a first meeting of emerging and national donors in November 2005.

B. Strengthening cooperation with Member States and relevant agencies and organizations

42. One of the strategic objectives of UNODC is to broaden its resource base by enhancing its policy dialogue with financial stakeholders and expanding its partnership network. Given the changing profile of development assistance, with donors putting more emphasis on policy-based assistance such as direct budget support and moving away from the funding of individual projects, UNODC is seeking to enhance its strategic partnerships to be more consistent with a more

policy-driven funding approach. The engagement of UNODC with external partners, including local governments, needs to be based on a comprehensive understanding of how their policies, priorities, budgets and operating procedures are shaped and how they coincide with the strategic priorities of UNODC. Strategic interests, a search for synergy and long-term commitment are key ingredients for the successful mainstreaming of the mandate of UNODC. In addition, prospective partners need to be carefully selected, taking into account their strategic policy and development finance impact, their interest in supporting the United Nations system and their need for specialized know-how available at UNODC.

43. With a view to reinforcing its partnership with its major donors, UNODC established a mechanism for regular consultations. Throughout 2005, in addition to the regular, semi-annual meetings, 11 informal major donor meetings were organized to discuss policy, operational, financial and management issues. For the first time, a meeting with emerging and national donors took place. Those meetings were complemented by many UNODC visits to donor capitals and bilateral donor missions to UNODC headquarters. During 2005, UNODC participation in inter-agency partnerships with bodies such as UNAIDS, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security were also strengthened. The memorandum of understanding signed between UNODC and UNIDO in March 2005 has resulted in joint projects in the areas of trafficking and the environmentally safe disposal of seized narcotics and chemicals, anti-corruption measures and alternative livelihoods.

44. New relations were forged with international financial institutions. A letter of intent for cooperation was signed with the Asian Development Bank. A funding agreement on a regional HIV/AIDS project in Central Asia was signed with the Fund for International Development of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Regular consultations were held with the World Bank on regional and thematic topics such as Afghanistan, anti-money-laundering, anti-corruption and governance. Consultations were also held with the European Investment Bank.

45. In 2005, UNODC and the European Commission exchanged letters on coordination, cooperation and partnership. To ensure a continued policy and operational dialogue, regular meetings of senior officials of the European Commission and UNODC are held. One area identified for potential future cooperation is the African Programme of Action, 2006–2010, referred to in paragraph 18 of the present report.

46. Over the past year, UNODC has developed a good relationship with the European Foundation Centre and its membership. UNODC plans to organize, in October 2006, the first Global Partnership Forum with private and corporate foundations. Forming partnerships with private foundations and the private sector in general will help to develop and implement codes of conduct that comply with United Nations conventions. Such partnerships will enable UNODC to share resources and expertise and to promote the key issues at the centre of the international policy debate.

C. Broadening the donor base of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and increasing voluntary contributions

47. The financial resource management of UNODC has focused on improving financial reporting, cost-saving measures, enhancing transparency and ensuring compliance. The issuance of formal management instructions aimed at systematizing, codifying and harmonizing management practices throughout UNODC continued. Those management instructions assist in monitoring compliance with the principal recommendations of the audit teams of the Office of Internal Oversight Services. While the various cost-saving and efficiency measures detailed in the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.7/2005/12 and Add.1) have been implemented, there has still been a shortfall in resources for the general purpose funds of UNODC.

48. External voluntary funding for UNODC-initiated technical assistance for both drugs and crime increased rapidly in 2005. Funding for the drugs programme remained more or less stable: $76.7 million, compared with $78.7 million in 2004. But more than 80 per cent of those external voluntary resources are earmarked for interventions in specific countries and areas. The amount of general purpose funding, $15.5 million, was almost the same as in 2004. The relatively high level of earmarked funding does not give the Office flexibility to set priorities. More general purpose funding is needed to enable the Office to better plan and implement long-term activities compatible with its mandate and consistent with the nature of its core functions.

49. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission's attention was drawn to the precarious financial state of the general purpose funds of the drug programme of UNODC. Average annual general purpose contributions to the drug programme of UNODC were $21 million in the period 1992-1998, compared with $16 million in the period 1999-2005 and a projected $11.5 million for 2006. That has left a shortfall of funds for 2006 and 2007. While the increase in the consolidated budget of UNODC for the biennium 2006-2007, compared with the previous biennium, was welcome, the decrease in general purpose funds and the zero growth in the allocation to UNODC from the regular budget of the United Nations for that period resulted in a deficit in the core budget for 2006. An important element in the prospects of general purpose funding is the ongoing UNODC strategy review. Enhanced clarity of strategic objectives and a stronger business focus on agreed core mandates, combined with a strategic partnering approach, as outlined above, should strengthen long-term institutional support for UNODC.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

50. It is recommended that the General Assembly consider recommending that the following measures be taken to make further progress in addressing the world drug problem:

(a) Measures against drugs and crime should be included as essential components in strategies to achieve sustained economic development;

(b) Member States, relevant intergovernmental and bilateral international financial institutions and development organizations should be invited to continue to

mainstream drug and crime concerns into their programmes and projects and to coordinate with UNODC to utilize the expertise available at UNODC;

(c) In recognition of the central role of the international drug control conventions, States that have not yet done so should become parties to and fully implement the drug control conventions, as well as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism;

(d) Member States, the international community, non-governmental organizations and civil society should be urged to evaluate progress made since 1998 towards meeting, in their respective areas of concern, the goals and targets set at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly;

(e) States should be urged to continue and reinforce their commitment to implementing the goals of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and to comply fully and in a timely manner with their reporting obligations;

(f) Taking into account the funding situation of UNODC and its array of mandates, Member States should be encouraged to make significant contributions, including general purpose contributions, to the fund of the UNODC drug control programme.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Twentieth Special Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/S-20/14), sect. III, resolution S-20/2, annex.

[2] Resolution 54/132, annex.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.10.

[4] United Nations *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.

[5] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.

[6] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.

[7] Resolution 55/25, annexes I-III, and resolution 55/255, annex.

[8] Resolution 58/4, annex.

[9] Resolution 54/109, annex.

[10] The production of amphetamine-type stimulants can be estimated only indirectly. The estimates cited here are based on the methodology outlined in the survey of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled *Ecstasy and Amphetamines: Global Survey 2003* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.XI.15).

[11] This apparent geographical concentration should be treated with caution, because some Member States report amphetamine seizures under the broader category of amphetamine-type stimulants.

[12] See the report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem: Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors (E/CN.7/2005/2/Add.4).

[13] *Precursors and Chemicals Frequently Used in the Illicit Manufacture of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances: Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005 on the*

Implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.5).

[14] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Coca Cultivation in the Andean Region: a Survey of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru* (June 2005).

[15] A comprehensive report on the activities of UNODC may be found in the report of the Executive Director on development, security and justice for all: towards a safer world (E/CN.7/2006/5-E/CN.15/2006/2).

[16] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 8* (E/2005/28/Rev.1), part two, chapter I, resolution 48/14.